

Standard 7-5 The student will demonstrate an understanding of the causes and effects of world conflicts in the early twentieth century.

7-5.6 Summarize the Holocaust and its impact on European society and Jewish culture, including Nazi policies to eliminate the Jews and other minorities, the “Final Solution,” and the war crimes trials at Nuremberg. (H)

Taxonomy Level: B 2 Understand/Conceptual Knowledge

Previous/future knowledge:

This is the first time students have been formally taught about the Holocaust.

In Global Studies, students will exemplify the lasting impact of World War II, including the legacy of the Holocaust (GS-5.6).

In US History, students will analyze the United States’ decision to enter World War II, including the rise and aggression of totalitarian regimes in Italy under Benito Mussolini, in Germany under Adolf Hitler (USHC-8.1). Students will also summarize the responses of the United States and the Allies to war crimes, including the Holocaust and war crimes trials (USHC-8.4).

It is essential for students to know how anti-Semitism was part of the Nazi ideology. Religious and cultural differences coupled with suspicion and envy had made the Hebrew people frequent scapegoats during times of crisis throughout the history of Europe. Increased movement by Jews into the mainstream of some European life led to increased prejudice as Jews were often stereotypically seen as more intellectual and successful and less nationalistic than others. Hitler’s anti-Semitism could have stemmed from these or numerous other irrational prejudices, but its existence was used as a rallying point to unite the German people in their quest “first” in economic recovery and “later” for empire, Aryan glory and world domination. Nazis claimed that the German people were a “master race” and used the word “Aryan” to describe them. Hitler claimed that all non-Aryan people were inferior, and he wanted to eliminate people he considered inferior, including those of Jewish ancestry, Poles, Russians, Communists, Gypsies, homosexuals and anyone considered physically or mentally deficient. Hitler and the Nazi Party passed the Nuremberg Laws in 1935, which denied German citizenship to Jews and prevented them from marrying non-Jews. Jews were also ordered to wear the Star of David so they could be immediately recognized in public. On November 9, 1938, Nazi troops attacked Jewish businesses, synagogues, and homes and killed approximately 100 Jews, known as Krsitallnacht, or “Night of Broken Glass.” Next, Jews were ordered to move into ghettos, and lived in terrible conditions, but the worst was yet to come. Hitler’s “Final Solution” forced Jews across Europe into concentration camps. Where they died enroute in cattle cars, were exterminated in specially designed showers and crematoriums and brutal experiments or barely survived in work camps. This genocide, called the Holocaust, occurred in every stage of the process, but most camps were located in Germany and Poland. When prisoners arrived at the concentration camps, they were examined by SS doctors. The Nazi soldiers allowed the strong (mainly men) to live in order to serve as laborers while many of the women, elderly, young children, and the disabled were killed soon after arriving at the concentration camps. Over six million Jews were killed during the Holocaust and more than 3 million Jews survived. The Nuremberg Trials, conducted

in 1945-1946, saw twenty-two Nazi leaders charged with “crimes against humanity” for these actions, illustrating to the world that such behavior was indefensible and unacceptable regardless of the circumstances and that each individual bears responsibility for his own actions. An International Military Tribunal, representing 23 countries, conducted the trials and ten of the Nazi leaders were hanged and their bodies were burned at a concentration camp. Support for a Jewish state/homeland (Zionism) increased after the depth of the Holocaust’s atrocities were revealed and the country of Israel was founded in 1948 as a response (See Standard 7-6.3).

It is not essential for students to know the names of the Nazi leaders who were tried at Nuremberg or their specific punishments.

Assessment guidelines: The objective of this indicator is to **summarize** the Holocaust and how European society and Jewish culture were impacted. Students should be able to **explain** the discriminatory acts the Nazis implemented against the Jews and what happened to the Jews and other people in the concentration camps. Students should also be expected to **explain** what happened to Nazi leaders as a result of the Nuremberg Trials.